
JUDICIAL PROFILE

Mark R. Santana was appointed to the Superior Court bench in December 2000. His legal career combines public service and private practice. Immediately prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Santana served as the first administrative counsel for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. He joined the agency in 1993, providing legal advice to the director, managers and staff. As administrative counsel he also specialized in environmental law, contracts, the agency's administrative hearing process and policy development. Upon joining the bench, he was assigned to Superior Court's Civil Department.



After earning his law degree in 1976 from the University of Arizona, Judge Santana served as law clerk for Federal District Court Judge James A. Walsh in Tucson. He moved to Phoenix a year later to become a prosecutor with the Arizona Attorney General's Office, where he was assigned to the Consumer Protection Section. In 1980, he entered private practice, joining the firm of Levy, Mason, Spector & Sherwood. In 1982 he joined the firm of Jennings & Haug, becoming a partner and specializing in surety defense, commercial law and construction litigation. He left the firm in 1993 to join the Department of Environmental Quality. Between 1992 and 2000, he also served as a judge pro tem of Superior Court, handling a variety of criminal, civil, probate and mental health proceedings.

Judge Santana is a past president of the Maricopa County Bar Association, a member of Los Abogados (Hispanic bar association) and is chairman of the State Bar Administrative Law Section. He has served on the Maricopa County Association of Governments Air Quality Policy Committee, the Phoenix Environmental Quality Commission and the Phoenix Citizens Bond Committee. He is president of the Phoenix Parks Foundation and is a member of the United Way Impact Spending Committee. Judge Santana was raised in California and received his undergraduate degree in history and political science in 1973 from the University of California at Davis.